

OUR AMERICAN FORMS OF STELLARIA ALSINE

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STELLARIA ALSINE Grimm in Nov. Act. Phys.-Med. Nat. Cur. iii. App. 313 (1767); Hoffm. Deutschl. Fl. 153 (1791). *S. uliginosa* Murr. Prodr. Comm. Gött. 55 (1770).

As pointed out by Handel-Mazzetti, Symb. Sin. Teil vii. 191 (1929), the characteristic plant of Eurasia and eastern North America, which has long been known as *Stellaria uliginosa* Murr. or *Alsine uliginosa* (Murr.) Britt., was first described as *S. Alsine* by Grimm in 1767, three years earlier than Murray's name and nearly a quarter-century before the independent publication of *S. Alsine* Hoffm. (1791). Grimm, using binomials, took the primary diagnosis from the pre-Linnaean at least in nomenclature Haller, source of many names taken over by post-Linnaean authors.

Innumerable minor variations of the plant have been defined in Eurasia, but most of them (under *Stellaria uliginosa*) seem to be mere responses to depth of water or degree of stranding—13 such forms enumerated by Gürke and 14 by Ascherson & Graebner. For the most part they seem very trivial, but two of them which occur in eastern North America are sufficiently striking as to attract notice. These are

STELLARIA ALSINE Grimm, forma **ovalifolia** (Peterm.) comb. nov. *Larbreia uliginosa*, aa. *ovalifolia* Peterm. Fl. Lips. 326 (1838). *S. uliginosa*, var. *latifolia* Peterm. Analyt. Pflzschlüssel Exc. Leipz. 57 (1846). *S. uliginosa*, forma *ovalifolia* (Peterm.) Aschers. & Graebn. Syn. Mitteleur. Fl. v. 547 (1917).

Typical *Stellaria Alsine*, the usual plant with us, has elongate stems and the leaves are elliptic-lanceolate or narrowly lance-ovate, the principal blades mostly 1–2.5 cm. long and 2–7 mm. broad and in distant pairs. It is well represented by Pl. Exsicc. Gray. no. 211. Forma *ovalifolia* has the oval or broadly elliptic leaves relatively much broader (two-fifths to three-fifths as broad as long), the larger ones up to 3.5 cm. long, though in its smallest extreme only 0.8–1 cm. long but 5–6 mm. wide. This form is represented by very extreme specimens from Cap à l'Aigle, St. Pierre, ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON, 5 juillet 1900, *Arsène* (with leaves up to 3.5 cm. long); ledges of damp sea-cliffs,

Torbay, NEWFOUNDLAND, *Howe & Lang*, no. 1373 (suggesting large *S. media*); seepy clay bank near Great Bras d'Or, Iona, NOVA SCOTIA, *Fernald & Long*, no. 21,208 (leaves unusually short); Wilmington, DELAWARE (without further data), *Edward Tatnall*.

In the other direction the most extreme form is a plant only 0.5–1 dm. high, with subapproximate pairs of lanceolate firm leaves only 4–12 mm. long, and with very short peduncles. This is

S. ALSINE, forma **alpina** (Schur), comb. nov. *Larbrea uliginosa*, b. *alpina* Schur, Enum. Pl. Transs. 115 (1866). *S. uliginosa* Murr., n. *alpina* (Schur) Gürke in Richter ed. Gürke, Pl. Eu. ii. 210 (1899). *S. Alsine*, var. *alpina* (Schur) Handel-Maz., Symb. Sin. Teil vii. 191 (1929).

In Eurasia this form is usually subalpine. With us it is known only from ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON: lieux humides, ruis scaux, fossés, Cap à l'Aigle, *Arsène*, no. 241. Some specimens from Newfoundland approach it.

THALLOPHYTES AND BRYOPHYTES OF THE CANADIAN EASTERN ARCTIC.¹—This represents the materialization of a volume which must have come near to being a wartime casualty. The work on which it is based was completed early in 1939 and the manuscript submitted for publication shortly thereafter. In its final form it is heavily documented by footnotes by the editor, most of which were added in 1946, in an effort to keep the manuscript up to date. The present volume, covering the nonvascular cryptogams of the region, is a follow-up of volume I, which was prepared by Polunin and which appeared in 1940, covering the Pteridophytes and Spermatophytes of approximately the same geographical area.

The region covered in the study includes an area of about 1,000,000 square miles of which a little less than half is said to be land. It is the area of North-eastern Canada lying roughly north of the 60th parallel and east of longitude 95 degrees west. An attempt is made to bring together in this one volume for the first time records of all the entities thus far known from the region whether previously published or not. This is said to have been accomplished for all the groups studied with the exception of the fungi and algae where older records have not been cited in detail but may be traced by the interested investigator through the cited literature. The foundation material for the volume is the collections made by Polunin and his associates in expeditions into the regions during the period 1934–36.

The contents of the volume consist of a Forword, General Introduction, Summary, and Index to Latin names, all prepared by Polunin, and the main body of the work consisting of seven papers on the various groups of crypto-

¹ *Botany of the Canadian Eastern Arctic, Part II, Thallophyta and Bryophyta*, compiled and edited by NICHOLAS POLUNIN, National Museum of Canada, Bulletin 97 (Biological Series 26): [I]–V + [I]–573. 18 plates, text-figure 1–5, pocket map at back, 1947. Price: \$1.00.